

Pakistan supports Geneva talks

ISLAMABAD (AP) — The government reaffirmed its support Wednesday for the U.N.-sponsored Geneva talks on a comprehensive settlement of the Afghanistan war. Following two hours of talks between U.N. mediator Diego Cordovez and Pakistani officials, the Foreign Office announced it remained committed to the agreements reached in the Geneva talks. A Foreign Ministry spokesman described Cordovez's shuttle between Islamabad and Kabul in the past week as "constructive efforts" and said the Pakistani government had suggested an extension "to promote resolution of the outstanding issues before completion of the proposed Geneva agreements." He did not elaborate. Cordovez first arrived in Islamabad on Jan. 10, flew to Kabul on Jan. 22 and returned Tuesday. Upon his return, he said there were "certain difficulties" concerning progress in holding the next Geneva talks. "We have to sort them out," he said. The ministry spokesman said that to end the war, "the formation of a broad-based interim government has been considered an indispensable requirement."

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Crown Prince to chair talks on economy

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan will chair an international symposium in Davos, Switzerland, Friday during which Jordan's economic development will be discussed. Prince Hassan will deliver an address at the opening session dealing with world economic conditions, relations between North and South and Jordan's development and economic potential as well as Jordan's relations with international economic groups and Arab countries. A Jordanian delegation, which will accompany Prince Hassan and attend the symposium, left Amman for Switzerland Wednesday. It includes Minister of Energy and Mineral Resources Hisham Al Khattab, Minister of Planning Tamer Kanaan, Minister of Industry, Trade and Supply Hamdi Tabbar, Amman Mayor Abdul Ra'ouf Al Rawabdeh, Central Bank of Jordan Deputy Governor Maher Shukri and a number of officials representing economic organisations in the country.

Rifai meets W. Bank lawyers

AMMAN (Petra) — Prime Minister Zaid Rifai Wednesday received Jordanian Bar Association (JBA) President Hussein Minali and a delegation representing lawyers in the occupied West Bank who are in the East Bank to discuss aid offered by the Jordanian government to Arab lawyers who have been on strike in the occupied West Bank since 1987. Following discussions with the lawyers, Rifai decided that funds will continue to be paid by the government to West Bank lawyers to strengthen their steadfastness on their homeland.

Israeli workers protest occupation

TEL AVIV (R) — About 500 Israeli mental health workers have signed a petition against Israel's occupation of the West Bank and Gaza Strip, saying it was led to racism and violence against the Palestinians in the occupied territories. The petition, to be published in the Hadashot newspaper on Friday and signed by social workers and psychiatrists, draws attention to the conditions of fear and humiliation to which Palestinians have been subjected since Israel occupied the territories in 1967. "We have learned over the years to shut our ears, blunt our feelings, as if all this were not happening to us or issuing from us. We are being swept into a life of fear, violence and racism," the petition said.

Baccouche ends visit to Iraq

BAGHDAD (R) — Tunisian Prime Minister Hedi Baccouche left Baghdad for Tunis after 24 hours of talks on the Iran-Iraq war and bilateral relations, the Iraqi News Agency (INA) said. The agency quoted Baccouche as telling Iraq's Deputy Prime Minister Taha Yassin Ramadan that his government fully supported Baghdad's right to defend its sovereignty and pride. Baccouche, who came to Baghdad from Jordan, had also visited Syria, Qatar, Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman and the United Arab Emirates.

Kuwait emir receives Egyptian message

KUWAIT (R) — An Egyptian minister Wednesday delivered a letter from President Hosni Mubarak to the emir of Kuwait, Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmad Al Sabah, the Kuwait News Agency (KUNA) said. It did not disclose the contents of the message, which followed a pledge by Mubarak during a Gulf tour earlier this month to help to defend Kuwait from any attack stemming from the Iran-Iraq war. Egyptian Justice Minister Farouk Seifel Nasr also held talks with Kuwait Justice Minister Dhari Abdullah Al Othman on ways to boost cooperation in the judicial sphere, KUNA said.

Six said killed in Fez protests

PARIS (AP) — A violent protest in the Moroccan city of Fez last week left six dead and hundreds injured, according to a statement released Wednesday in Paris by the Action Committee for the Liberation of Moroccan Prisoners. Official sources in Morocco said the confrontation took place between police and students at the University of Fez, demonstrating in support of Palestinians in the Israeli-occupied West Bank and Gaza.

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- Darousha calls for Rabin's resignation
- Rabin's 'iron fist' policy is damaging chances for peace and the image of Israel," Darousha said.
- "For the sake of the Jewish people and the interest of co-existence between Arabs and Jews, I call on him to resign because I have real fears he will lead the country and the area to more wars and bloodshed."
- Speaking at the same event, Jerusalem Mayor Teddy Kollek said police acted in a crude and silly manner in handling Arab protests in the city.
- Kollek cited police intervention in Muslim holy places and a curfew imposed for 24 hours on a small Arab neighbourhood which he said was interpreted abroad as meaning the whole city was besieged.
- Darousha himself resigned Saturday from Rabin's Labour Party in protest against the handing of the rebellion in which 39 people have died on the West Bank and Gaza Strip since last month.
- "Rabin's 'iron fist' policy is hurting the chances for peace and the image of Israel," Darousha said.
- "For the sake of the Jewish people and the interest of co-existence between Arabs and Jews, I call on him to resign because I have real fears he will lead the country and the area to more wars and bloodshed."
- Senior Labour politician Abba Eban told the meeting Israeli Arabs were fully justified in expressing solidarity with fellow Palestinians if their protests remained "lawful."
- Together, they will put more obstacles in the way of peace despite the good intentions of (Labour Party head and Foreign Minister) Shimon Peres," he said.
- Rabin has been assailed by

Arabs escalate protests despite Israeli savagery and detentions

Expulsions reportedly postponed

TEL AVIV (R) — Israeli leaders have postponed the expulsion of five more Palestinians, sources said Wednesday.

They said the Israeli prime minister, Yitzhak Shamir, the foreign minister, Shimon Peres, and the defence minister, Yitzhak Rabin, decided not to deport until at least Sunday the five who are accused of inciting violent protests against Israeli occupation last month.

"Shamir, Peres and Rabin decided to postpone the deportations because of the international reaction to what is happening in Israel and the territories and because they might cause the riots to begin again and damage Israel's image," a source said.

The inner cabinet met Wednesday to decide when to expel Furayi Ahmad Khalil Khayri, Mohammed Abu Samara, Hassan Ghaniyyeh, Mohammad Abu Shakra and Khalil Kuku from the Gaza Strip after the four dropped appeals to the supreme court Tuesday in protest at being denied access to secret evidence against them.

The fifth Palestinian, Adil Baskin Nafa Hamad, from the Qalandia refugee camp in the occupied West Bank, withdrew his appeal to Israel's highest court last week.

Three more Palestinian activists ordered deported before the uprising began Dec. 9 were brought blindfolded, their hands and feet tied, to the supreme court where their appeals were heard Wednesday, sources said.

Speaking at a news briefing, a foreign ministry spokesman refused to confirm or deny reports that the ministry recommended the expulsions be delayed.

A military spokesman, present at the briefing to coordinate statements made by the foreign ministry and the army, would only say: "They could be deported at any time."

Israel faced world condemnation earlier this month when it expelled four Palestinians from the West Bank to southern Lebanon.

The sources said it was likely the five facing deportation would also be dropped off just outside Israel's self-declared "security zone" in southern Lebanon.

Darousha calls for Rabin's resignation

TEL AVIV (R) — An Israeli Arab parliamentarian called on Defence Minister Yitzhak Rabin Wednesday to resign, saying his "iron fist" policy towards Palestinian unrest would lead to more bloodshed.

Speaking at the same event, Jerusalem Mayor Teddy Kollek said police acted in a crude and silly manner in handling Arab protests in the city.

Kollek cited police intervention in Muslim holy places and a curfew imposed for 24 hours on a small Arab neighbourhood which he said was interpreted abroad as meaning the whole city was besieged.

Darousha himself resigned Saturday from Rabin's Labour Party in protest against the handing of the rebellion in which 39 people have died on the West Bank and Gaza Strip since last month.

"Rabin's 'iron fist' policy is hurting the chances for peace and the image of Israel," Darousha said.

"For the sake of the Jewish people and the interest of co-existence between Arabs and Jews, I call on him to resign because I have real fears he will lead the country and the area to more wars and bloodshed."

Senior Labour politician Abba Eban told the meeting Israeli Arabs were fully justified in expressing solidarity with fellow Palestinians if their protests remained "lawful."

Together, they will put more obstacles in the way of peace despite the good intentions of (Labour Party head and Foreign Minister) Shimon Peres," he said.

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Israeli soldiers arrest a Palestinian in Ramallah as his mother pleads with them against the arrest.

up Arabs in door-to-door sweeps through refugee camps in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

The Israeli army said it had placed 129 Palestinians in "administrative detention" without trial since the Palestinian uprising started in the occupied territories Dec. 9.

The controversial practice, left over from the pre-1948 British mandate in Palestine, allows a suspect to be jailed for up to six months without due process of law.

An army spokesman said a further 1,753 Palestinians were still under arrest, including 577 who have been sentenced to jail terms by military courts during the seven weeks of protests.

The spokesman said 111 Palestinians had been placed in "administrative detention" in the West Bank and 18 in the Gaza Strip during that period.

It was the biggest wave of detentions for many years.

Protests continue

In Anabta on the northern outskirts of Jerusalem, a squad of police and border policemen armed with M-16 assault rifles and clubs fired tear-gas canisters and rubber bullets into a crowd of demonstrating Arabs.

They fired dozens of tear-gas canisters at the Palestinians who

(Continued on page 3)

Jordan urges Security Council to give new impetus to peace conference idea

UNITED NATIONS (R) —

Jordan, speaking for all Arab states, called Wednesday for new efforts to convene an international peace conference on the Middle East, which Israel has again rejected.

Abdullah Salih, the King's permanent delegate to the U.N., said in the Security Council that the conference should make a settlement that would ensure Israel's withdrawal from Arab lands occupied in the 1967 and 1973 wars, including Jerusalem.

The Palestinians should be permitted to return to their homeland and be assured of the right to self-determination and the establishment of an independent state on their national territory, Salih said.

He was the first speaker when the council resumed debate on the ongoing Palestinian uprising in the West Bank and Gaza, following a report

last Friday by Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar that also called for an international peace conference.

Perez de Cuellar said the underlying problem in the occupied territories could be resolved only through a political settlement that responded both to the refusal of the Palestinians to accept a future under Israeli occupation and Israel's determination to ensure its security and well-being.

In his statement in the council, convened to consider the report, Salih said a comprehensive, just and lasting peace

undoubtedly one day reach a point of no return."

He said the world was stunned by the violence in the occupied territories because it had forgotten 20 years of Israeli occupation there.

He endorsed the secretary general's call for a concerted effort to obtain Israel's acceptance de jure (by right) of the applicability in the territories of the Fourth Geneva Convention on the treatment of civilians in wartime.

Alexander York von Wartenburg, the West German delegate, said Perez de Cuellar's report should serve as a masterplan for future steps. A new impetus was needed to promote an effective negotiating process in the Middle East, Von York said.

Those who had expressed their readiness for a political solution now should be taken at their word, Von York said.

He was in the past once again here and now that we would like to see this settlement achieved," Salih said. "Without such a settlement, the situation will continue to deteriorate and in-

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His Majesty King Hussein Wednesday receives French Deputy Prime Minister Edward Balladur (Petra photo)

King receives message from Chirac, reviews Mideast events with Balladur

By Sa'd G. Hattar
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — His Majesty King Hussein Wednesday received French Deputy Premier and Minister of Finance Edward Balladur for talks believed to have focused on the ongoing Palestinian uprising in the occupied territories and the Iran-Iraq war.

The King said Jordan was keen to improve Jordanian-French relations in all fields, Petra added.

King Hussein described the Palestinian uprising in the occupied territories as a spontaneous

result of continued Israeli military occupation and the deprivation of Palestinian people of its legitimate rights, Petra said.

Jordan Television said the King's talks with Balladur dealt with the latest developments in the Middle East, the Iran-Iraq war and means of boosting bilateral relations.

The meeting was attended by Royal Court Chief Marwan Al Qasem, Minister of Finance Hanan Odeh, French Ambassador to

(Continued on page 3)

Jordan-PLO talks begin in Amman

AMMAN (Petra) — Talks began at the Prime Ministry Wednesday between Jordan and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO). The Jordanian side to the talks were headed by Prime Minister Zaid Rifai and included Foreign Minister Taher Al Massri, Minister of Occupied Territories Marwan Duhun, Information Minister Hanan Khasawneh and Interior Minister Rajai Daiani.

The PLO side was headed at the talks by Executive Committee member Mahmoud Abbas and included Executive Committee members Abdul Razak Al Yabu, Abdul Rahim Ahmad and Abdulla Al Hourani.

Abbas and Hourani arrived



Prime Minister Zaid Rifai meets PLO Executive Committee members Mahmoud Abbas and Abdulla Al Hourani at the outset of Jordan-PLO

Wednesday (Petra photo)

here earlier in the day. They were received upon arrival by Duhun, Foreign Ministry Secretary-General Nabih Al Nimer and Al Yabu, who is also the PLO representative in Jordan.

(Continued on page 3)

Egyptian leader briefs Shultz

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak briefed Secretary of State George Shultz Wednesday on a plan to end violence in the Israeli-occupied West Bank and Gaza as the United States prepared to put fresh force into its regional peace efforts.

Mubarak, whose initiative calls for a six-month moratorium on violence by both Palestinians and Israelis in the West Bank and Gaza, also coincided with criticism by the Iraqi foreign minister of Syrian efforts to arrange a dialogue between Arab Gulf states and Iran.

The Iraqi president's interview, which appeared in a Saudi newspaper Al Youm, was published in the Saudi Arabian newspaper Al Youm.

"It would not be in the interest of the Iraqi and Iranian nations that the military operations between the

Another German kidnapped in Beirut

BEIRUT (Agencies) — Gunmen, some of them donning Lebanese police uniforms, kidnapped a West German in one of the busiest districts of Syrian-controlled west Beirut Wednesday, police said.

The victim was identified by police, and relatives as Ralph Rudolf Schray, 30, who works for a local chemical firm and has lived most of his life in Lebanon.

A police spokesman earlier said the victim was identified to the Police Department as Ralph Strauss, but later issued a statement correcting the identification.

Relatives denied Beirut radio reports that Schray was of a Lebanese origin.

"He was born in Beirut in 1957 to a West German father and a Palestinian mother and had been registered since birth as a West German," one relative said. He spoke on condition of anonymity.

The police spokesman, who cannot be named in line with standing regulations, said the gunman snatched Schray as he walked across a sidestreet off West Beirut's Hamra commercial thoroughfare at 11:05 a.m. (0905 GMT).

The West German embassy could not be immediately reached by telephone because of a power outage gripping the capital.

The assailants were in three cars and "some of them wore police uniforms," the police spokesman said.

He said they "pushed Schray into one of their cars at gunpoint and sped off."

But Khalil Deeb, a 36-year-old Syrian janitor of a nearby apartment building, said only two cars were involved, a black Mercedes-Benz and a red Renault.

"Five gunmen came out of the two cars, grabbed the blonde bespectacled victim and pushed him into the Mercedes. He repeatedly screamed through the window, and the kidnappers kept pushing his head down."

Another gunman, wielding a pistol in one hand and a Soviet-made AK-47 Kalashnikov assault rifle in the other, ran from the two cars shouting at motorists to make way, Deeb said.

A police spokesman tried to stop the kidnappers, but the gunman on foot pointed the Kalashnikov to his stomach and then climbed into the Mercedes which sped away followed by the Renault, Deeb added.

Another witness said the kidnappers headed toward west Beirut's low-income Zakat Blatt district which is a stronghold for the Iranian-backed Hezbollah, or Party of God, militant faction.

Hezbollah, made up of Shi'ite Muslim extremists loyal to Iran's Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini, is believed to be an umbrella for Iranian-backed underground factions involved in the kidnapping of foreigners in Lebanon.

"As the cars slowed down in a street near the Syrian-manned Murr Tower skyscraper, the victim managed to jump out of the Mercedes," said the witness who refused to be named.

"But a gunman followed him and forced him back into the car that raced off before the Syrians could make any move," he added.

The kidnapping is a direct challenge to Syria's law-enforcing effort in west Beirut which has been policed by a 7,500-strong Syrian army contingent since Feb. 22.

West German Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher visited Damascus Jan. 15-16 and discussed with Syrian President Hafez Assad among other issues the fate of West German hostage Rudolf Cordes still held in Lebanon. Mr. Genscher said he had asked the Syrians for help in efforts to

secure his release.

The victim is the second foreigner kidnapped near Syrian army checkpoints since the February deployment. The first was American journalist Charles Glass who was soothed on Beirut's southern edge last June 17. He gained freedom Aug. 18.

Hamadi refused to testify

In Dusseldorf, the judge in the West German trial of Abbas Ali Hamadi said the new abduction would complicate proceedings.

Judge Klaus Arend read a statement in court saying that if Wednesday's kidnap had been carried out by people linked to the abductors of Schmidt and Cordes, "things could get difficult and the opposite of what had been possible could now occur."

Arend did not elaborate. West German officials had earlier discussed the possibility of expelling the two brothers from West Germany once they were sentenced.

Habib called on Christians of the world to express solidarity with the Palestinians "in their struggle for full human and national rights," and to call upon the Jewish people "to break the ideology of fear and trauma... which underlies the present aggressive policies of Israel."

He called for support of U.N. efforts to create a framework for negotiations on the Middle East conflict leading "to the total withdrawal of Israel from all Arab territories, guaranteeing security for all countries in the region, and the implementation of the Palestinians' right to self-determination."

Pohl of El Salvador also acknowledged the special "social legal and historic role of religion" in the Islamic state as a main reason for its "difficulties" in applying international human rights standards.

Galindo said he asked Iran to provide information on 60 alleged cases of executions and torture to death in the last two years, but received no detailed replies.

But in the fourth annual report on Iran to the U.N. Human Rights Commission, special investigator Reynaldo Galindo

boarded the boat and later explained why he was arrested as the accused hijacker was lying face down on the ship's deck.

Defense lawyer Francis D. Carter, in court papers, charged that two FBI agents deliberately slammed Younis to the deck, breaking his wrists. Droujinsky said he was walking behind Younis, Hamdan and other FBI agents and was unable to see how the defendant was treated during the arrest.

After the transfer to the ordnance ship and an examination by Dr. Clarence H. Braddock III, Droujinsky and special agent Thomas P. Hansen informed Younis of his rights. The defendant was also given a written Arabic version that he later signed.

Carter questioned Droujinsky, 48, who moved to the United States from the Middle East in 1959, about his familiarity with Lebanese law.

Government spokesman Jerzy

U.N. report cites new torture cases in Iran

GENEVA (AP) — A U.N. report has cited allegations of more than 14,000 killings by Iranian government agents in 1981-87, including 2,000 newly discovered cases, and evidence of continuing torture in the Islamic state's prisons.

But in the fourth annual report on Iran to the U.N. Human Rights Commission, special investigator Reynaldo Galindo

denied that authorities ordered the expulsion of the two Palestinians, but said they "simply left Poland after the liquidation of the company," known as the Sos Foreign Trade and Investment Co., which had operated in Warsaw for about four years.

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Defense lawyer Francis D. Carter, in court papers, charged that two FBI agents deliberately slammed Younis to the deck, breaking his wrists. Droujinsky said he was walking behind Younis, Hamdan and other FBI agents and was unable to see how the defendant was treated during the arrest.

After the transfer to the ordnance ship and an examination by Dr. Clarence H. Braddock III, Droujinsky and special agent Thomas P. Hansen informed Younis of his rights. The defendant was also given a written Arabic version that he later signed.

Carter questioned Droujinsky, 48, who moved to the United States from the Middle East in 1959, about his familiarity with Lebanese law.

Government spokesman Jerzy

boarded the boat and later explained why he was arrested as the accused hijacker was lying face down on the ship's deck.

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Hamzeh outlines Jordan's measures to combat the spread of AIDS

LONDON (Petra) — Minister of Health Zaid Hamzeh Wednesday said that Jordan was virtually free from AIDS (Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome) due to historical and social reasons, with the exception of the few cases which were reported to the World Health Organisation (WHO).

Speaking at the international conference on AIDS which began here Tuesday, Hamzeh said that only 10 AIDS cases were reported in Jordan, three of which were due to sexual contact and drug use, while the remaining seven victims contracted the AIDS virus through blood trans-

fusion during operations performed abroad.

Jordan does not import blood nor does it allow the entry of blood plasma from abroad unless it is properly tested to ensure that it does not contain the virus, the health minister stressed.

According to Hamzeh, there are over 150,000 non-Jordanians working in Jordan in addition to half a million Jordanians working abroad thus making Jordan subject to the appearance of more AIDS cases.

Hamzeh said that Jordan had

for the past two years taken special measures to prevent the spread of AIDS, including testing blood in blood bank and promoting public awareness of the disease through health education campaigns.

The three-day conference has been organised by the British government in cooperation with the WHO with the main objective of developing a worldwide strategy for preventing the spread of the AIDS. Health ministers from 130 different countries are attending this conference, which is the first world summit on the killer disease.

Jordan, Morocco to boost trade

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Joint Jordanian-Moroccan Higher Committee Wednesday concluded its meetings here with the signing of minutes designed to promote bilateral trade and economic cooperation.

The minutes provide for the exchange of goods worth \$15 million and exempt from customs duty in 1988.

The committee agreed that the national products of each country could be exported to the other, provided that they are supported by certificates of origin.

According to a statement at the end of the meetings, trade be-

tween the two sides will be conducted through a company representing the private sector in Morocco, which will be formed during the next few months, and the Jordanian Commercial Centres Corporation (JCCC).

The minutes also provide for the two sides to conduct direct and indirect trade transactions involving up to \$12 million for each party.

The JCCC and the Moroccan company will open offices in Rabat and Amman to facilitate the exchange of products between the two countries.

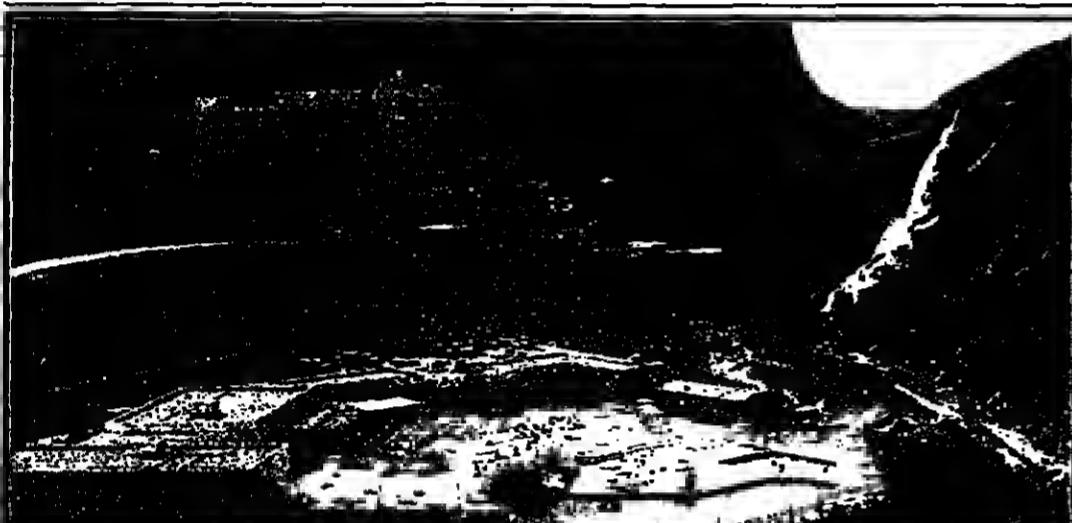
In addition, the minutes pro-

vided for the organisation of Jordanian trade fair in Casablanca in June 1988, and a Moroccan fair in Amman later on.

Each of the fairs will be allowed to sell products worth \$3 million directly to the public or to retailers, according to the minutes which also provide for an exchange of visits by businesspeople from both countries.

The minutes, which resulted from two days of talks, were signed by Secretary-General of the Ministry of Industry and Trade Mohammad Saqqaf and Director of the Moroccan Exports Department Mohammad Akdara.

According to a statement at the end of the meetings, trade be-



The Zarqa Ma'in Spa Complex offering the benefits of the spa's therapeutic thermal waters, in addition to multiple recreational facilities.

Zarqa Ma'in Spa complex offers curative benefits, visual pleasures of hot springs

Text and photos by Mosika Warch Special to the Jordan Times

THE HEALING properties of the abundant thermal waters in Jordan have been recognised thousands of years. All along the eastern slope of the Jordan Valley about 150 thermal springs emerge, with temperatures ranging from 24 up to 64 degrees Centigrade, according to Director of the Water Research and Study Centre (WRSC) of the University of Jordan Elias Salameh. Sixty of these hot springs are concentrated in the valley of Zarqa Ma'in, about 30 kilometres west of Madaba, and over 40 more in closeby Wadi Um Hidieb (Zara).

This is also the area where Lot and his two daughters were said to have settled after his wife was turned into a salt statue because she looked back at the destroyed cities of Sodom and Gomorrah. In the Roman period, King Herodes was said to have enjoyed the healing qualities of the thermal springs of Zarqa Ma'in. And in this century, the late King Abdullah had a thermal pool built for himself on a beautiful site above the small mosque with the magnificent view of the Dead Sea and the Jordan Valley.

The scenery of Zarqa Ma'in itself is breathtaking, with the sides of the narrow valley rising steeply on both sides. Wherever one of the numerous hot streams has cut its way deeply into the valley sides, abundant tropical vegetation grows amidst the bare rocks.

Most impressive is the large waterfall dominating the valley. The hot water descends for nearly 30 metres, joins the main stream which flows down about 500 metres and then empties into the Dead Sea. When it arrives at the bottom, the water's temperature is still about 30 degree Centigrade. Most of the Zarqa Ma'in springs reach temperatures of up to 63 degree Centigrade. Their mineral content includes sulphur, iron, carbon dioxide and iodine, as well as many trace elements and a certain degree of radioactivity. These elements, together with the high temperature, render the water a curative agent for many ailments. The high sulphur content, in particular, produces a very distinct smell that seems to be present everywhere in the valley.

According to a study on the curative effects of all thermal waters in Jordan by the WRSC, the ailments and body functions positively affected includes:

arthritis, central and peripheral circulation, muscle contractions, gland secretion, immunity, pains, respiratory tract infections, rheumatism and skin diseases.

Almost all thermal waters in Jordan are more suited to external than to internal use due to their high sulphur contents and the radioactivity factor, the study says.

The Zarqa Ma'in site was long considered an ideal place for a hotel and spa complex and construction on the project started in 1983, according to its general manager, Michel Nazzal. Between 1984 and 1986, the construction came to a halt because of financing difficulties. But in 1987, work was resumed, and the complex is now almost complete. Nazzal put the project's total cost at JD 14 million, including a JD 2.5 million loan from the Belgian government. The construction was carried out by a contractor from Dubai who employed 600 Indian workers.

However, a minimum of sixty per cent of the staff to run the hotel and restaurant, and the medical and treatment sections of the spa complex will be Jordanian, in compliance with govern-

ment regulations. The remaining personnel will be recruited from the region as far as possible, Nazzal pointed out.

The spa facilities, with the exception of the hotel, have already been open to the public for the last few months. The official opening of the complex will take place in early 1988.

The complex consists of a hotel with 142 rooms, 55 double rooms in a chalet, a number of caravans, a poolside restaurant and a small supermarket. There is a beautiful conventional swimming pool with large recreational area, and a thermal and medical section with two hot water pools (one for females and one for males), which are already in use.

The hotel itself forms a completely independent unit with its own swimming pool, restaurants, thermal pools and medical section. Nazzal said that this concept of two separate units within the spa is based on the assumption that local visitors and tourists from abroad, particularly the West European countries, should not be forced to use the same facilities, bearing in mind the different cultural and social values of the two groups.



The magnificent waterfall dominating the Zarqa Ma'in valley.



Director-General of the Public Security Department (PSD) Lieutenant-General Abdul Hadi Al Majali Wednesday confers with Secretary-General of INTERPOL Raymond Edward Kendall on security affairs (Petra photo)

INTERPOL, PSD chiefs discuss security links

AMMAN (J.T.) — Secretary-General of the International Criminal Police Organisation (INTERPOL) Raymond Edward Kendall met here Wednesday with Director-General of the Public Security Department (PSD) Lieutenant-General Abdul Hadi Al Majali to discuss bilateral cooperation in security.

Majali briefed the INTERPOL chief on the establishment of comprehensive security in Jordan through security centres around the Kingdom.

Later Kendall was accom-

panied by senior PSD officials to the Al Muhaireen security centre downtown where he was briefed on its operations. The centre deals with juvenile delinquency cases and social problems and offers public services such as issuing car licences.

The INTERPOL chief then visited the PSD Criminal Investigations Department and was briefed on its functions.

Kendall arrived in Amman Tuesday for a two-day visit to Jordan.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Lawzi meets with S. Korean envoy

AMMAN (Petra) — Speaker of the Upper House of Parliament Ahmad Al Lawzi received in his office Wednesday South Korean Ambassador to Jordan Dongsoon Park. The ambassador, whose mission here terminates soon, discussed with Lawzi matters of mutual concern to Jordan and South Korea and cooperation in parliamentary affairs.

Birzeit board chairman dies

AMMAN (J.T.) — Chairman of the Board of Trustees of Birzeit University Mohammad Sa'di Al Faqih died in Ramallah Tuesday and will be buried in the city today. Faqih, who had also served as deputy and chief medical officer at health centres operated by the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA), died of a heart attack at the age of 52. Faqih was a prominent Palestinian who dedicated his life to serving his country.

Drug trafficker sentenced

AMMAN (Petra) — The military court has sentenced Mohammad Jamal Rizk, an Egyptian national, to five years in prison and the payment of a JD 500 fine for trafficking dangerous drugs. The military governor endorsed the sentence Wednesday.

Palestinians seek urgent protection

(Continued from page 1)

orders. In this connection, special mention must be made of the hundreds of applications for family reunions which we call upon the authorities to accept forthwith.

The immediate lifting of the siege of all Palestinian refugee camps in the West Bank and Gaza, and the withdrawal of the Israeli army from all population centres.

Carrying out a formal inquiry into the behaviour of soldiers and settlers in the West Bank and Gaza, as well as inside jails and detention camps, and taking due punitive measures against all those convicted of having unduly caused death or bodily harm to unarmed civilians.

A cessation of all settlement activity and land confiscation and the release of lands already confiscated especially in the Gaza Strip. Also putting an end to the harassments and provocations of the Arab population by settlers in the West Bank and Gaza as well as in the Old City of Jerusalem. In particular, the curtailment of the provocative activities in the Old City of Jerusalem by Ariel Sharon and the ultra-religious settlers of Shuhada Banim and Ateret Kohanim.

Refraining from any act which might impinge on the Muslim and Christian holy sites or which might introduce changes to the status quo in Jerusalem.

The cancellation of the value added tax (V.A.T.) and all other direct Israeli taxes which are imposed on Palestinian residents in Jerusalem, the rest of the West Bank and in Gaza; and putting an end to the harassment caused to Palestinian business and tradesmen.

The cancellation of all restrictions on political freedoms including restrictions on freedom of assembly and association; also making provisions for free municipal elections under the supervision of a neutral authority.

The immediate release of all funds deducted from the wages of labourers from the territories who worked and still work inside the "green line," which amount to several hundreds of millions of dollars. These accumulated deductions, with interest, must be returned to their rightful owners through the agency of the nationalist institutions headed by the workers' unions.

Removing the restrictions on political contacts between inhabitants of the occupied territories and the PLO, in such a way as to allow for the participation of Palestinians from the territories in the proceedings of the Palestine National Council, in order to ensure a direct input into the decision-making processes of the Palestinian nation by the Palestinians under occupation.

Palestinians escalate protests

(Continued from page 1)

In Gaza, soldiers beat and kicked cameramen working for the American television network CBS and broke their equipment after they filmed troops hitting a Palestinian boy, cameraman Moshe Ben-Dor said.

Elsewhere, soldiers forced striking shopkeepers to open their stores and smashed Arab cars in Ramallah, Palestinian sources said. There was also a complete commercial strike in Arab Jerusalem.

The Israeli army ordered two Gaza journalists to close their offices for a year, military and Palestinian sources said. The offices of journalist Hasan Al Wahidi, who works for the Al Fajr daily, and Ahmad Abu Lashin, a freelancer, were closed for "security reasons," a military spokesman said.

Palestinian sources said the journalists were given no explanation.

Construction of Al Wahdah Dam to begin by early 1989

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Jordan Valley Authority (JVA) is preparing the final designs for the Al Wahdah Dam across the Yarmouk River along the Jordanian-Syrian border, and construction of the dam is expected to begin by early 1989, JVA Vice-President Thafer Al Aalem announced Wednesday.

Aalem said the dam, which will have a 220-million cubic-metre reservoir for water to be used for irrigation as well as drinking purposes in the Amman and Balqa regions, would also have a 20-megawatt hydroelectric project.

Nearly 75 per cent of the generated power will be supplied to Syria, according to an agreement signed between Jordan and Syria in September last year, Aalem said.

Aalem said that the JVA was currently preparing a separate tender to divert a section of the Yarmouk River from the spot where the dam is to be set up, a

project which should be completed early next year.

The diversion will involve drilling a 800-metre tunnel with a 7.7-metre radius to the right of the dam to channel the water away while the dam is still under construction, Aalem said.

He said that 30 local, Arab and foreign companies had already submitted applications for the tunnel project, and that the tender could be ready by Feb. 15.

The projected dam will be the biggest in the Kingdom and its total cost will reach nearly JD 100 million, Aalem said. He said that

the dam would create an artificial reservoir approximately seven kilometres long which would be useful for breeding fish and for recreation.

Aalem expects that the dam to be completed by 1991.

The dam agreement was officially signed by the prime ministers of Jordan and Syria in September 1987.

The design for the dam project were prepared by HARZA engineering firm in accordance with an agreement with JVA. HARZA's work included assessing all water resources of the river, estimating the quantity of water from winter rains for storage behind the dam, studying possible designs for the dam to determine which would be the most feasible economically and technically.

Evaluating by potential donors, and preparing designs, tender documents and prequalification for international companies.

Abu Nseir collecting books for future public library

MAAN (Petra) — The Water Authority of Jordan (WAJ) has begun the second phase of a project in Maan costing JD 340,000.

Supervisor of the project Hamad Khereisha said the second phase entails substituting 19 kilometres of the old water network with new pipes and laying 400 metres of pipe to draw water from Tahouna water springs. The project also includes building a 4,500 cubic metre-capacity water tank at a cost of JD 10,000, which will be completed by June 1988.

Khereisha said that in the past year WAJ completed 95 per cent of the first phase of the project, which entailed laying 27 kilometres of pipe. The whole project, he said, is expected to be completed by August 1988 at a total cost of JD 3 million.

The project will benefit 25,000 inhabitants, constituting nearly 85 per cent of the Maan population, according to Khereisha.

TCC to float tenders for expansion projects

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Telecommunications Corporation (TCC) will next month float tenders for projects included in its five-year plan. Minister of Transport and Telecommunications Khaled Al Haj Hassam announced Wednesday.

The minister said that the projects will add 220,000 more line to the Kingdom's telephone network at a cost of JD 100 million. Haj Hassam said that on Feb. 4 the TCC would announce two tenders for the execution of phases of these projects. The first tender, worth JD 24 million, is for procuring heavy equipment required for distribution grids, while the second, worth JD 33 million, will be for excavation and civil works.

The minister said that the two tenders would be floated in the international market, but the TCC has stipulated that some of the raw materials required in the first tender be purchased from the local market. He said that the second tender required the international company to award 50 per cent of its share to Jordanian contractors who should work as sub-contractors.

Later next month, Haj Hassam noted, the TCC will announce two more tenders for the procurement and installation of electronic telephone exchanges.

Iraqi leader rejects truce

(Continued from page 1)

charter to Iran in a pre-dawn raid off the Iranian coast Wednesday.

Iraq said its warplanes attacked another ship off Iran's coast about nine hours later, but that attack could not be immediately confirmed.

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U.S. should look in its own backyard

WASHINGTON was the scene of a flurry of Middle East-related diplomatic activity this week, crowned by the meeting today between President Ronald Reagan and Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak. While it is too early to say what could come out of the meetings the Egyptian president had with the American leaders, including the secretaries of state, defence and the treasury, the Reagan administration appeared to have given a new force to Middle East diplomacy by meeting two leading Palestinians from the West Bank and Gaza. Notwithstanding the possibility that the meeting Secretary of State George Shultz had with Hanna Siniora and Faez Abu Rahme was aimed at displaying some kind of momentum in peace efforts, it is clear that the secretary of state could, in fact, arrive at a clearer picture of what is happening in the occupied territories and its far-reaching implications. Coupled with what Mubarak had to offer in the way of his proposal for a six-month moratorium on violence and a freeze in Israeli settlement in the West Bank and Gaza, and the "briefing" that Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir's envoy, Eliezer Rubinstein, gave to State Department officials Tuesday, Washington does not have to look further to find where the problem lies; it is right in its own backyard.

The stand that the U.S. administration has adopted towards the proposal for an international conference on the Middle East is no longer ambiguous; Shultz made it clear that Washington has no intention, at this point in time, to accept the proposal when he kept a pointed silence in response to the Soviet call for a Security Council initiative to pave the way for the conference, and reportedly instructed his delegate at the U.N. to reject the call.

Thus, it remains a mystery what the U.S. plans to do, having already said that it does not consider Mubarak's proposal as a peace plan. It would be wishful thinking to hope for American pressure on Shamir to drop his objections to an international conference. If anything, Rubinstein is in Washington not only to reaffirm Shamir's rejection of the conference, but also to convey the Likud leader's opposition to the Mubarak proposal. So, the logical candidate for American pressure is the Arabs. But it would be one of the Reagan administration's gravest mistakes if it sought to convince the Arabs to accept whatever Shamir has in mind for the Palestinian land and people. Enough is enough; we have had more than our share of procrastination from Washington, and it is time the American leadership accepted the reality that if pressure is to be applied it should be on Israel, which undeniably by the international outcry over its oppression of the Palestinian people, appears to be trying to rewrite the history of state-sponsored brutality against a people.

ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i: Reaffirmation of strong ties

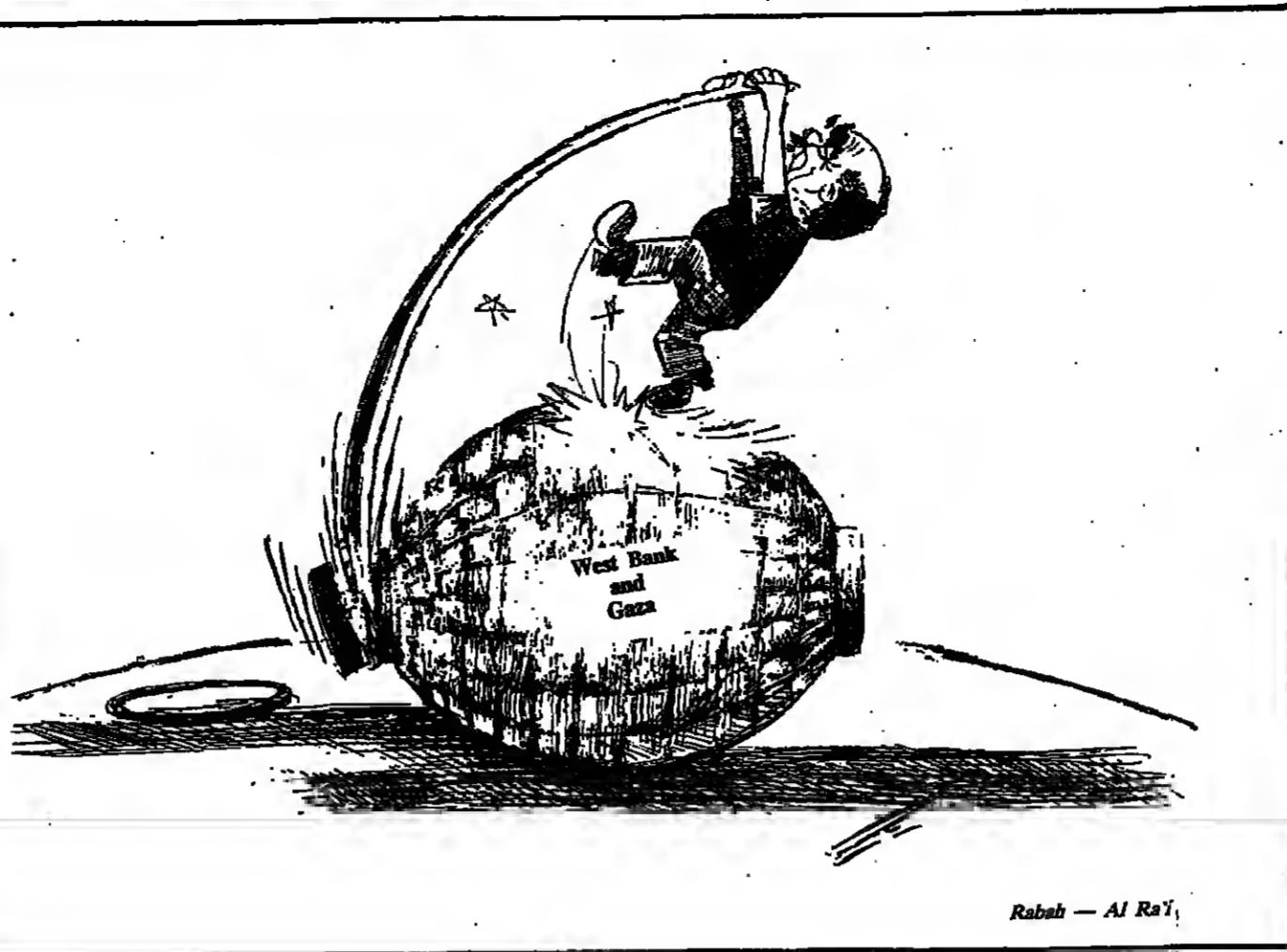
KING Hussein's talks with Iraqi President Saddam Hussein in Baghdad was a renewed reaffirmation of the strong ties between our two countries. These exemplary ties have been strengthened over the years as the leaders of Iraq and Jordan are keen on building up a solid front and maintaining their coordination in the face of common dangers and challenges. The two leaders reviewed the development in the Gulf conflict and the situation in the occupied Arab territory, and they exchanged views about joint action in confronting these dangers. The two leaders are clearly maintaining the spirit that prevailed during the Amman Arab summit meeting last November, and are acting upon its resolutions which are designed to thwart all enemies expansionist and aggressive plans in the Arab region. In their brief meeting, the two leaders re-examined means for giving more momentum for the implementation of the Arab summit's resolutions and recommendations, and also looked into means for escalating efforts towards ending differences within the Arab family. The two leaders are keen on joint Arab action to defend all parts of the Arab land whether it is in Basra which faces Iran's aggression or Jerusalem where the Israelis are trying to impose their arbitrary rule on the Arab inhabitants. Arab countries have no alternative to joining forces and facing their common enemies with all their might.

Al Dustour: In support of Arab causes

TWO very important questions were on the agenda of King Hussein and Iraqi President Saddam Hussein at their meetings in Baghdad Tuesday. They reviewed the situation in the Gulf region and at the battlefield; and the president assured King Hussein of the solid stand of the Iraqi forces and their determination to thwart all enemy plans. The King expressed the Jordanian peoples' total support for Iraq and its people and armed forces in their efforts to defend their country and Arab soil. The uprising of the Arab people under Israeli rule was the other question tackled by the two leaders who reviewed reactions from different countries to this uprising and continued efforts on the part of the Arab world to abort Israel's plans and to help establish a lasting peace in the region. The question of the international Middle East peace conference is related to the situation in the occupied land; and both countries are agreed that such conference must be held as soon as possible, and that the Arabs must now show all their support for the Soviet Union's new moves at the Security Council to achieve peace. The King's talks in Baghdad came on the eve of the monarch's coming tour of European countries where he aims at enlisting further support for the Arab just causes.

Sawt Al Shaab: In harmony with summit spirit

KING Hussein's talks with President Saddam Hussein in Baghdad were another stage in the on-going consultations between the two leaders in harmony with the resolutions and the spirit of the Amman Arab summit. The resolutions had called for the implementation of U.N. Security Council resolution 398 to end the Gulf conflict and also the convening of an international conference to bring peace to the Middle East. The King and the president are keen on the implementation of these resolutions and also keen on maintaining Arab solidarity which can guarantee their implementation. The King's talks with the president were important, coming on the eve of the King's coming tour of European countries where he is expected to discuss the Gulf and the Middle East issues.



Rabah — Al Ray

ADC blasts CBS movie 'Terrorist On Trial'

THE American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee (ADC) has issued a strong protest to CBS Vice-President/Programme Practices George Dessart concerning the content of "Terrorist on Trial: The United States vs. Salim Ajami," first broadcasted Sunday, Jan. 10, at 8.00 p.m. The film is a fictitious account of the capture and trial of a Palestinian charged with conspiracy to murder American civilians in Spain. "It is our contention that the George Englund production, which purports to be about the American system of justice, makes its point at the expense of Palestinians and Arabs in general. 'Terrorist On Trial' defames and scapegoats an entire ethnic group in the name of entertainment," an ADC official said last week. This point is underscored by the complete absence of any positive Arab character of any significance to offset the evil Ajami. Nowhere in this film is a more moderate case made for the legitimacy of Palestinian claims to the "right of self-determination. As has been the case for decades, the creators of "Terrorist On Trial" have failed to apply the widely accepted industry standard of balance to members of our ethnic group.

To the contrary, "Terrorist On Trial" will make Americans fearful of Palestinians and suspicious of all Arabs. Palestinian students in the U.S. often do participate in rallies to support Palestinian nationalism and to protest Israeli human rights violations but they have never been known to rally in

support of terrorism as depicted in George Englund's film. Nor would the League of Arab States show any interest in the welfare of an accused terrorist. To suggest otherwise is to engage in slanderous innuendo and guilt by association that paints all Arabs with the same brushstroke of defamation.

We find it equally disturbing that the producers of the film have virtually omitted any negative references to Israeli representation as a motivating factor for Ajami's violence. Such an omission is consistent with Hollywood's historic hypocrisy vis-a-vis subjects having to do with the Middle East. Just as not a single American congressman or senator had the courage to publicly condemn the Israeli shooting of Palestinian demonstrators in Gaza in the last few weeks, Hollywood producers continue to avoid any negative references to Israel in their films. "Terrorist On Trial" is just one more in a series of exploitative films that would have the American public believe that Arabs, be they Palestinian or other, have an irrational hatred for America for reasons that are best left unmentionable. We find such blatant self-censorship and Arab-bashing unacceptable.

CBC claim

If, as CBS claims, "Terrorist On Trial" is indeed a film about the workings of the American judicial system then it oot

have been just as effective to have portrayed a non-ethnic terrorist from a fictitious group or country? The enormously popular TV series "Mission Impossible" used just such an approach very successfully.

If, as George Englund claims, the film is about the root causes of Palestinian terrorism then why was Alan Dershowitz, a well-known apologist for Israeli policy, hired as a consultant to devise a credible Palestinian defence?

Coming on the heels of the highly publicised and brutal Israeli repression of the Gaza uprising, many viewers of this film might find it odd that Israel is on the back burner of Ajami's rage. Terrorism by anyone and towards any end is abhorrent. However, if one is going to explore the causes of such violence one should, at the very least, honestly portray the problem. In this instance the producers have used unacceptable restraint and, in so doing, have left out the most important part of the story: Israel.

While it is true that producer George Englund did consult with ADC regarding the script, our input was cosmetic in nature. Some of our suggestions were accepted but none affected the basic premise of the film. As George Englund himself stated at a press conference in New York last November, "the understanding (with ADC) was that the substance of the drama was not at issue, but we wanted to be absolutely clear about anything that was technical or matters of clar-

ification and procedure." While we appreciate Mr. Englund's efforts we feel that they were too late in coming. Our main concern had to do, in fact, with the substance of "Terrorist On Trial." If one is going to give a Palestinian a forum to air his grievances then we ask that expression be honest. To do otherwise is tantamount to making a film about South Africa without mentioning apartheid.

ADC calls upon the Hollywood community to abandon its use of negative Arab stereotypes to the exclusion of any positive images. We challenge CBS or any other network to come up with a single positive Arab character in any film, dramatic series, or situation comedy in the last twenty years. We maintain that there are none and that Arabs have the dubious distinction of being the only ethnic group that has consistently and relentlessly been ridiculed, vilified and insulted. "Terrorist On Trial" continues that tradition.

ADC has called upon its national membership to monitor "Terrorist On Trial" and then to express its views to local CBS affiliates, to CBS Entertainment President Kim Le Masters and to the national sponsors of the broadcast. We hope that by so doing, we will be able to generate a definitive debate on the subject of Hollywood's refusal to apply the concept of "balance" — the off-setting of negative ethnic characters with positive ones — to subject matter having to do with Arabs.

Cautious optimism on Turco-Greek ties

By John Owen-Davies

Reuters

ANKARA — Ten months after war drums echoed across the Aegean Sea, the prime minister of Turkey and Greece are to meet in Switzerland for talks likely to determine the future course of ties between their countries.

"I am expecting the start of a sincere and good-willed dialogue. I would hope that with patient follow-up after this meeting... we can achieve some results," Turkey's Turgut Ozal said of his meeting this weekend with Andreas Papandreou.

Papandreou has said the talks, during an economic seminar in Davos on January 30-31, could lead to a change in ties. "An effort for warming relations can be foreseen," he said.

Both sides are showing great caution, born of deep-rooted lack of trust, over hard bargaining likely to follow the talks.

NEWS ANALYSIS

The two countries, members of the NATO Western alliance, have long been at odds over territorial, mineral and other rights in the Aegean, as well as over divided Cyprus.

Rival threats to start oil exploration in disputed Aegean waters brought them close to war in March 1987. Ties have thawed since then with message exchanges between Ozal and Papandreou.

Turkey hopes a dialogue will reduce Greek opposition to its drive for full membership of the European Community.

Formal talks expected

Political sources say Davos could lead to formal talks between Ozal and Papandreou, who last met at the same economic gathering in 1986 but only shook hands.

The last formal meeting at this level was in 1978, involving Turkey's Bulent Ecevit and Greece's Constantine Karamanlis.

Turkey may offer at some stage to abolish a controversial 1964 decree that suspended ownership on property in Turkey belonging to Greek nationals, the sources said.

Scrapping the decree with reciprocal effect is believed to be a condition by EC member Greece for it to sign EC-Turkey financial protocols. Turkey is an EC associate.

"When we look back at the issues between us we see that a long time has elapsed and things have accumulated," Ozal told the left-leaning daily Cumhuriyet.

"It will not be easy to solve all these. But if we can start a dialogue and advance gradually by solving issues starting with the easier ones, this can be a significant result."

So-called easier issues include tourism, trade and easier access to Turkey for Greek workers. "Turkey cannot have a chauvinistic attitude on such subjects any more," he said.

Papandreou has indicated he will put forward the issue of the Aegean continental shelf.

Greek government spokesman Sotiris Kostopoulos said Athens' position on disputed Aegean areas had not changed. It wants the issue taken to the International Court of Justice in The Hague.

The Davos talks have been preceded by verbal sparring over the Aegean, evoking memories of March last year.

Turkey, responding to a Greek statement that any moves by Athens to extend its territorial shelf in the Aegean to 12 nautical miles from six was a purely Greek affair, said it would "take every measure" to defend its rights and interests.

Greece, which controls most of the 2,500 Aegean islands, wants both sides to ask The Hague to rule where the continental shelf divide runs between Turkey's coast and nearby Greek isles.

Turkey has said it would agree to take the issue to The Hague, provided Greece agreed to direct negotiations.

Ankara's view is that the Ac-

gean issues are inter-related. It believes the present state of affairs is against every logic.

Cyprus a big question

Cyprus is a major question that will have to be addressed at some stage by both sides if ties are to improve dramatically.

Turkish Cypriots unilaterally declared the Turkish Republic of North Cyprus in 1983, nine years after Turkish troops secured the northern third of the island after

a coup inspired by the military junta then ruling Greece.

Rauf Denktash, leader of the breakaway republic recognised only by Turkey, said: "We are not pinning our hopes for the future on this (Davos meeting) but I think it is a good and helpful thing that it is taking place."

Sounding a note of caution over Davos, the Greek pro-government newspaper Ta Nea said: "Greek-Turkish differences by their nature do not offer much room for negotiation."

Christ redeems Golda Meir

An irregular column by Waleed Sadi

Ali, a Palestinian Arab living in East Jerusalem, was having a chat with his old friend Moshe, an Israeli living in West Jerusalem over a cup of Turkish coffee the other day just before a curfew was imposed on East Jerusalem in the wake of the Palestinian uprising in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. They had not seen one another since the outbreak of the Palestinian revolt, and for the initial few moments their friendship seemed strained, due to what happened between Israelis and Palestinians over the past five weeks. As they sipped coffee, both could sense their former informality and warmth give way to formality and coolness. There was tension in the air. They both waited for the first opportunity to break the ice that seemed to have formed over their relations. Ali took the initiative. Being rich with metaphoric expression, he thought of using the latest fable which had gained currency among the Palestinians to warm up their chilly encounter.

"You remember your late Prime Minister Golda Meir of course," Ali remarked to Moshe. "And you may even recall better the reputation that she had earned as a 'Palestinian hater'." Moshe nodded his head, and wanting to join in the conversation, added: "Golda earned her credentials among many Israeli when she worked, 'who are the Palestinians?' We all remember her words."

"Fine," replied Ali. "Let me now tell you my little story. When Golda died, her soul lifted to the sky and was met by Jesus Christ who wanted to have a chat with her about her post mortal life. Jesus Christ tried in vain to stirke up a conversation with Golda, who would not utter a word. Becoming exasperated by not being able to get through to Golda, Jesus Christ asked an angel to intervene on his behalf, and find out why Golda would not talk to him. The Angel obliged and quizzed Golda. He came back and reported to Jesus Christ the results of his investigation. 'Golda,' he told Jesus, 'would not talk to you because she says you are a Palestinian'."

Moshe did not know whether to laugh or to show anger. But he soon showed signs that he comprehended the moral of the story. "But are we not talking to one another," Moshe challenged Ali. "You are a Palestinian and I am an Israeli and we have been talking with one another for years, ever since we occupied your lands." Ali listened impatiently and finally interrupted Moshe's words. "Yes, Moshe," Ali answered. "We have been talking to one another throughout the past twenty years. But is it not obvious that you have been hearing us but not listening?" He chose to explain the breakdown of communications between our two peoples. You see, Moshe, you always heard us but never listened to us. Don't you see, Moshe, there can never be real 'talking' between the free and the enslaved for over four decades you have denied us recognition and for two decades you have occupied our lands, enslaved our people, and humiliated our aspirations to be free and noble. Even our friendship can never be a true one unless we are both free. It was getting darker outside and Moshe wanted to get home before the curfew in Ali's neighbourhood. They bid farewell to one another, promising to meet again. This time, Moshe said, as they exchanged kisses on each other's cheeks, "when you talk I promise to listen to you more carefully."

"Sure, Ali replied, "I would not have it any other way."

LETTERS

Not the whole truth

To the Editor:

I READ with enthusiasm Dr. Ahmad Majdoub's guest column: "The truth about the Yarmouk graduates" (Jordan Times issue of Jan. 27).

As one of the Yarmouk University graduates, I bold great respect to Dr. Majdoub as an outstanding faculty member of the Yarmouk University's English Language Department. However, Dr. Majdoub's article did not reveal the whole truth.

I do agree with him that the allegations made against the university's standard of teachings are unfair and unrealistic. I also agree with the figures that Dr. Majdoub quoted. But I still think that he missed some points.

He did not mention anything about "favouritism" accorded students by some faculty members, a phenomenon that is less obvious in the English Language Department than others.

He did not, for example, mention anything about "push ups". This is a practice by which a faculty member would "raise" all the grades of his class to increase the number of passing students. This is not the only way being used to "beautify" the image of a faculty. Some faculty members go even further. They cancel a low-grade mid-term exam and replace it by another. This is being done to keep the reputation of the faculty member. It is fair to say that the university and its faculties do take into consideration students' remarks on the evaluation system, and also take into account students' choice of subjects.

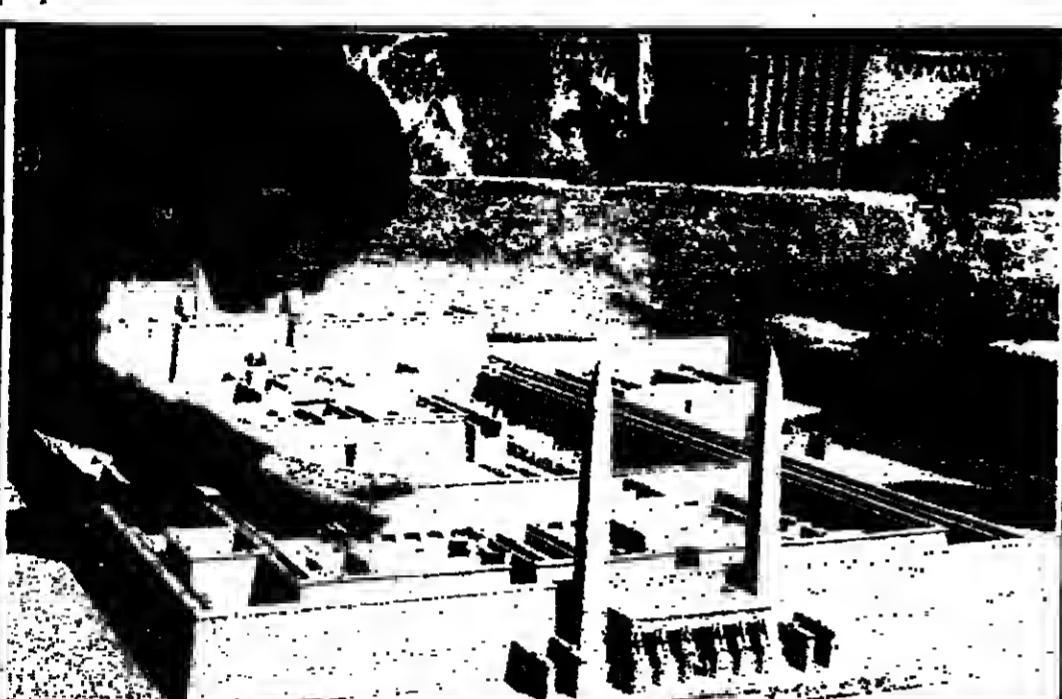
On the other hand, the multiple choice type questions that most professors opt to provide enough room for cheating and most of the time produce false results.

Finally, to be fair with the university, I must point out that during my 4-year study at the university I noticed the remarkable progress that the university has made and I only hope that it will rise to the expectations of its professors and students to be one of the most distinguished universities in the region.

Samir Hourani</



(Above) a computer graphic design of Karnak's hall of columns, and (below) a model of the Karnak temple



The builders of Karnak

By Frederic Seigneur

THE EGYPTIAN site of Karnak, dedicated to the god Amun, forms the greatest group of temples ever built on the banks of the Nile. In 1987, the Antiquities organisation at the Egyptian Ministry of Culture, together with two French bodies, the National Scientific Research Centre (CNRS) and the Cultural Relations Department at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, decided to create a Franco-Egyptian Centre in Karnak. This centre, which was a further element in the already long collaboration between the two countries, was created for the purpose of "pursuing the archaeological study of the site, scientifically searching for the origin of the disintegration of materials, and developing restoration processes adapted to the various kinds of degradation. The aim of this research is notably to enable consolidation and restoration work to be carried out."

For 20 years, French and Egyptian researchers have thus been working side by side in this prestigious place, with its great accumulation of temples, chapels, pylons, obelisks, and whose most impressive element is the great hypostyle hall 300 metres by 130.

computer, which is now a new and indispensable tool for the egyptologist. Thanks to computer-assisted design (C.A.D.), it is possible to recreate (in this case thanks to the French electricity company EDF) certain frescoes, or to index and show the different buildings constructed at Karnak at different periods, in the form of three-dimensional pictures from all possible angles.

Among the top specialists in this vast temple are the Egyptians El Sayed Hegazi, Abd El Hamid Maaroof and Farag Abd El Motaleb, as well as the Frenchmen Jean-Claude Golvin and Jean-Claude Goyon, who recently wrote a book called "The Builders of Karnak" (*Les Batisseurs de Karnak*), published by the Presses CNRS. This book presents the different buildings and their determining religious dimension. It describes the restoration processes used to fight the "leprosy" of the stone, before going on to the techniques used by the architects of Ancient Egypt. These had to be particularly developed, as chanting crowds of workers had to perch stone lintels, weighing several dozen tons, at the tops of columns over twenty metres high — L'actualité en France.

World greenhouse is too hot and too dirty, crops are in peril

By Peter Millership
Reuters

LONDON — The global greenhouse is too hot and too dirty and this may imperil mankind's future food supply, a new independent study says.

The hope, adds the 1988 world commodity outlook from the London-based Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU), is that science can come up with radical new ideas to maintain bumper harvests despite abrupt changes in the weather likely to be caused by pollution — the so-called "greenhouse" effect.

"Clearly, we are entering an age of huge uncertainty, since we are creating conditions unprecedented throughout man's brief existence on this planet," said the EIU, part of the Econocom group which includes the Economic weekly.

Last year's EIU commodity report focused on the problems of plenty and the paradox of Third World children starving even in times of world surplus.

This year, the EIU concerned itself with pointing out how these surpluses are at the mercy of climate, arguing that worse-than-expected weather which hit northern hemisphere grain and Asian rice crops in 1987 were a timely reminder.

It also noted drought in Africa. "Prices of rice in Asia and of oilseeds in India rose because of bad weather but ample stocks of

the affected commodities meant there were no big shortages.

Changing climate

"It could be unwise," the report went on, "to dismiss the setbacks of 1987 as the result of one season's aberrantly unfavourable weather."

"Although there is far from being a scientific consensus on the subject, we must entertain the possibility that long-term changes in the world's climate are in hand."

The release of carbon dioxide by burning fossil fuels has warmed the atmosphere, and pollution has dirtied it, making for uncertain weather patterns. The discovery of a hole in the ozone layer over the Antarctic is neither spelt out nor weather.

The EIU said it was therefore necessary to raise yields by biological rather than chemical means, and that genetic engineering — the transference of inherited characteristics — held grounds for optimism.

"More probably, it will have to operate in an environment that offers confusing indications of what long-term adaption is necessary, in which bountiful yields in one year are followed by disaster in another."

"It should provide commodity traders with the active markets they thrive on, but it will be too much fun for farmers," it added.

The answer lay with science. "It remains reasonable to hope that scientific advance will be adequate to ensure in the short term that yields go on rising in years when weather is favourable and in the longer term that agriculture is able to adapt globally to permanent changes in the climate," the report says.

It added it would be helpful if North America and Western Europe, which are now able to produce far more food than they can eat or sell, could distribute their surpluses more widely.

But the developing world's rural poor have to grow food because they have no money with which to buy it.

The EIU was further concerned that science can itself risk long-term damage. Industrial nations relied too heavily on chemical inputs of fertiliser, pesticides and herbicides which are ecologically damaging, while the "green revolution" in rice production was based on increased use of fertiliser.

The EIU said it was therefore necessary to raise yields by biological rather than chemical means, and that genetic engineering — the transference of inherited characteristics — held grounds for optimism.

"There is surely enough news promising increased productive capacity for us to journey into an unknown climate with a view of the future some way this side of despair," the report said.

Peace on Earth to people of goodwill

The following appeal was prepared by an informal meeting of a committee of church leaders in Jerusalem during last week. It was agreed to and signed by the heads of the Greek Orthodox, the Latin (Roman Catholic), Armenian, Greek Catholic (Melkite), Anglican, Syrian Catholic, Syrian Orthodox, and the Lutheran Churches. It was presented to four Arabic language newspapers in the West Bank on Friday evening for publication on Saturday. The Israeli censors prohibited its publication.

TO ALL our sons and daughters, our sisters and brothers in the Holy Land.

"Thus says the Lord: 'Let not the wise man glory in his wisdom, let not the mighty man glory in his might, let not the rich man glory in his riches; but let him who glories glory in this, that he understands and knows me, that I am the Lord who practises kindness, justice, and righteousness in the earth; for in these things I delight,' says the Lord."

Jeremiah 9:23-24

The recent painful events in our land which have resulted in so many victims, both killed and wounded, are a clear indication of the grievous suffering of our people on the West Bank and in the Gaza Strip. They are also a visible expression of our people's aspirations to achieve their legal rights and the realisation of their hopes.

We, the Heads of the Christian Communities in Jerusalem, would like to express in all honest-

ty and clarity that we take our stand with truth and justice against all forms of injustice, and oppression. We stand with the suffering and the oppressed, we stand with the refugees and the deported, with the distressed and the victims of injustice; we stand with those who mourn and are bereaved, with the hungry and the poor. In accordance with the word of God through the Prophet Isaiah, chapter 1, verse 17:

"Learn to do good; seek justice, correct oppression; defend the fatherless, plead for the widow."

we call upon the faithful to pray and to labour for justice and peace for all the people of our area.

And in response to the same word of God, prompted by our faith in God and our Christian duty, we have decided to call upon all our sons and daughters who are, with us, an integral part of the people of this Holy Land who are labouring and witnessing for justice and peace, to give expression to what we feel we ought to do in these ways:

1. We call upon all our sons and daughters to pray for justice and peace for our land and for all its peoples throughout this Week of Prayer, Sunday, 24 January, to Friday, 31 January 1988.

2. We call upon faithful Christians to dedicate next Friday, 29 January 1988, as a day of fasting and self-denial, identifying ourselves with our brothers and sisters in the camps on the West Bank and in the Gaza Strip.

We request you to give what

you thus save towards the support of our needy brothers and sisters, remembering that Friday speaks to us of the passion of our Lord Jesus Christ, of his crucifixion, and of his death to redeem all humanity.

3. We have resolved to set apart Sunday, 31 January 1988, in all the churches of our various communities as a day of prayer and preaching when fervent prayer will be offered in the regular worship services that justice and peace may be realised in our land, so that all may live there in safety, security and peace. At the end of these services, donations towards the support of our needy brothers and sisters will be collected.

We solemnly charge the Christians to fill the churches by their presence and actively to contribute to the success of what we intend to do, praying that God may inspire and direct all leaders and people in authority to bring to reality what all of us hope and work for so that the foundations of truth, justice and peace may be firmly laid in our beloved part of the world.

Therefore, we again state unequivocally that all our Christian churches in this country, standing together, seek real peace based on justice and which will never be established unless every person's rights are fully respected; only when this happens will crises cease, peace permeate our country, and the song of the angels on the birthday of Jesus Christ, "the King of peace," be a reality.

"Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will towards men."

Female foetuses aborted because of Indian obsession for sons

By Dev Varam
Reuter

BOMBAY — Venkatesh sat on the edge of the seat, his fingers nervously tapping the table as the geneticist examined his pregnant wife.

Venkatesh had brought Gauribai 250 kilometres to Bombay from their home in Sholapur to learn whether she was carrying a son or daughter before such pre-natal sex-determination tests became banned in private hospitals in India's Maharashtra State.

The ban is aimed at preventing the deliberate abortion of female foetuses, which Indian newspapers estimate happens 36 times a day in this country of 800 million where having sons is an obsession.

"We want a male child," 35-year-old Venkatesh said in an interview, adding irritably: "We already have four daughters and we can't afford to have one more."

Ganribai, speaking softly, said everybody, including her in-laws and parents, wanted her to produce a son to carry on the family business and name.

"In India women are under psychological pressure to produce a son," said Hema Purandare, the geneticist who runs the birth defects centre in Bombay, one of about 250 such clinics in India's commercial capital.

Purandare said the proposed restrictions on amniocentesis tests announced by the Maharashtra government on new year's eve had intensified efforts by some couples to conceive in advance of the deadline, which officials say may be still six to 12 months away.

Women's groups have welcomed the move, but say that unless India passes a similar law nationwide, clinics will just shift their operations to neighbouring states.

Amniocentesis was introduced in India in 1974 for detecting genetic disorders in unborn children, but increasingly it has been used for sex-testing and as the basis for deciding whether to have an abortion. Abortion on demand was legalised in 1971.

Government action followed a study by the centre for education and documentation, a privately-funded group, which said that of 8,000 abortions performed at six city clinics all but one were of female foetuses.

According to Indian newspapers, between 1978 and 1983 about 78,000 female foetuses were aborted in India after such tests.

"It is the case of a good test getting a bad name," said gynaecologist Sharad Gogate. "In recent years it has fallen into the hands of unscrupulous and ill-qualified people."

Gogate blamed what he called "female foeticide" on the obsession for male children, which often makes Hindu couples turn to counsel *sadhus* or holy men.

Women always blamed

"The woman is always blamed if she fails to conceive, a male child. Men desert wives or marry for the second time only to have sons," Gogate said.

To traditional Hindus, the birth of a male child acquires a semi-religious aura. He will grow up to support the family, perpetuate its name, light his parents' funeral pyre when they die and

perform rituals for their souls.

A female child is considered a burden to parents who can be left financially ruined after providing an expensive dowry and lavish wedding for their daughter.

"A male child is like a long-term investment and couples in need of one would not mind spending money on tests to make sure of it," said Gogate. "In our own study of about 3,000 pregnant women, only one showed preference for a daughter."

The amniocentesis test, and abortion if wanted, cost 1,000 to 2,500 rupees (\$75 to \$100) — a fraction of what many families would spend in marrying off a

daughter.

At least one doctor has come out openly to criticise the proposed ban.

Datta Pai, who runs Bombay's biggest abortion centre and strongly supports the use of amniocentesis for sex-determination, said legislation would not stop the killing of female foetuses.

There was even a danger, he said, that more and more couples might resort to murdering unwanted baby girls after birth.

"What is needed is social education. The ban will only push aside the law-abiding medical community and encourage quacks," he said.

Archaeology for scholar

Al Rababah: A portrait of early Islamic civilisation in Saudi Arabia

By Dr. Sa'ad Al Rashid
Longman, London 1986, £40.00

THAT an English public still remains fascinated by what it imagines Arab life to be was evidenced by the tremendous popularity of the "Riyadh — the Saudi experience" exhibition in London. The portrait is probably closer to their conception than the ultra-modern, hi-tech Riyadh of today.

Al Rababah flourished from 630 until its destruction in 931, but its essential civilisation continued on the peninsula for another thousand years. The town lay on the Darb Zubaydah, the pilgrim road linking the cultural and political centres of Islam in Iraq to its ritual core in Arabia.

Regrettably the book fails to present the portrait in a way that is accessible to the non-specialist. Based upon a series of six excavations, it is neither an archaeological report — six academic volumes are to come — nor an informative coffee table book, though it looks like one. The team from the King Saud University will doubtless produce excellent volumes on the site for the archaeological record, but in writing for a wider audience they should have had some firm editorial direction from their publishers, who have failed them in not identifying a public — Middle East International, London.

Hal Bishop

What has gone wrong? The expense that must have gone into this work will be the envy of many, authors and archaeologists alike. There are nearly 300 colour photographs alone, all doubled, as this is a bilingual edition — printed on thick glossy paper. The team from the King Saud University will doubtless produce excellent volumes on the site for the archaeological record, but in writing for a wider audience they should have had some firm editorial direction from their publishers, who have failed them in not identifying a public — Middle East International, London.

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Hal Bishop



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Souad Pharmacy/Shmeisani •
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Birjawi Pharmacy/Wahdat •
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Roty Pharmacy/Jabal Amman •



Economy

Minister requests firms not to lay off employees

AMMAN (J.T.) — Industry, Trade and Supply Minister Hamed Tab'a has asked private enterprises, especially insurance companies, not to lay off staff in the event of any merger between two or more of these companies.

In a memo circulated to the merged companies and carried by the Arabic newspaper Al Ra'i, the minister warned against any staff layoff or negative administrative changes as a result of mergers taken by the companies.

"It has been noticed that some companies tend to dismiss some of their employees in the course of mergers," the minister said. He reiterated the government's efforts to curb unemployment and stressed such layoffs would further aggravate the problem in the Kingdom.

The minister's memo came in response to a request by the Banking, Insurance and Auditing Association following complaints over cases of repressive dismissals by some companies.

Jordan, Egypt reportedly plan to set up joint floating hotel

AMMAN (J.T.) — Jordan and Egypt reportedly have plans to build a floating hotel connecting both of Jordan with the southern tip of Sinai peninsula.

The Arabic newspaper Sawt Al Shaahid in a report recently that the two governments had agreed to set up the joint venture as one of various similar projects to be carried out by the Jordan-Egypt Tourist Investments Company.

The report gave no further details other than saying shares for the project would be floated for public and private sectors in both countries.

Jordanian officials contacted by the Jordan Times said it was premature to unveil data about the project terms which are still being discussed.

Director General of the Jordan National Shipping Lines Company (JNSLC) Yasser Tal said the project could be profitable especially if it served the Sinai shores. As for Aqaba, Tal said he believed current services furnished by hotels there were enough unless future demands necessitate an expansion of the volume of hotel rooms.

The JNSLC operates ferries on the Aqaba-Nuweiba route, a sea-link operational since April 1985.

Yarmouk University awards contract for residential quarter

IRBID (J.T.) — Yarmouk University has awarded a contract to a local company for the construction of a residential quarter for female students at the cost of JD 4,405 million.

According to the university's Secretary General Hamad Dweiri the project entails building 10 complexes in 700 days. These, he said, will be of two types — one for the undergraduates and groups eight buildings and the other two buildings for the post graduate students at the university.

The project also entails some buildings for services and utilities, courts for sports such as volleyball, basketball, lawn tennis and other facilities.

Earlier this month, Yarmouk University embarked on setting up facilities and buildings for the Faculty of Medical Sciences at the cost of JD 14 million.

ARMICO to conduct studies in N. Yemen

AMMAN (Peta) — The Amman-based Arab Mining Company (ARMICO) has won a contract from North Yemen to conduct a feasibility study on the development of the country's granite and marble deposits. ARMICO, set up by the Council of Arab Economic Unity as a pan-Arab company, has a special unit for the development of granite and marble in Arab countries. The project in North Yemen will be financed by the Islamic Development Bank, according to an ARMICO source.

FORECAST FOR FRIDAY, JANUARY 29, 1988

YOUR DAILY HOROSCOPE

From the Carol Righter Institute

GENERAL TENDENCIES: Don't allow a conflict between your emotions and reason to interfere with your daily routine; use these two aspects of your personality together. Be alert to opportunities today, since many are present.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) Plan an unexpected stick to it today, and avoid wasting your time. A good friend can help you get a new project started.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20) Don't try to settle an account until you have discussed it with a clever friend who is an expert in this area. Share your ideas with your mate.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) Opportunities abet today, but seize only those which you know you can handle. Make some plans for an important trip you must take.

CANCER (June 22 to July 22) Bring your potentials to the attention of a superior, and you can make some quick progress. Work on getting your home in order.

LEO (Jul. 22 to Aug. 22) A progressive friend can give you some great ideas on how to use more modern methods in business. Show your appreciation for the help.

VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22) A jealous associate could make big trouble for you today, so never fear of this person. If anyone offers you a chance to do better, take it.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) An investment opportunity may become apparent today, but be sure

you don't tax your budget. Stick with tried-and-true methods.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) Experts in business and family friends can be quite helpful to you in beginning some new project. Be more helpful to your mate.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) Call in an old correspondence which you have been neglecting for quite some time. Modern methods can help your business interests.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20) Your mate may have a good idea for improving your monetary status, listen carefully. Work on improving the condition of your home.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19) Don't procrastinate about presenting your ideas to superiors. Buy a nice gift for your mate, and tonight can be very romantic.

PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20) This is an ideal day to confer with your family about how to make the future much brighter. Invite some trusted friends in tonight.

IF YOUR CHILD IS BORN TODAY He or she will be quite ingenious and inventive, and will have a natural talent for working with tools and other mechanisms. Plan to give your progeny as fine an education as possible so these talents are not wasted on a trivial vacation in the future.

"The Stars Impel: they do not compel." What you make of your life is largely up to you!

FORECAST FOR THURSDAY, JANUARY 28, 1988

YOUR DAILY HOROSCOPE

From the Carol Righter Institute

GENERAL TENDENCIES: A restless and nervous atmosphere will prevail tonight, so if you want to accomplish something properly today, be sure to do it in the morning. Avoid making any promises which you may not be able to keep.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) Have a chat with a good friend today, but be sure to avoid any arguments. If you entertain any guests tonight, stay within your budget.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20) Find a way to make more money in the business world so you can get your property properly repaired. Pay attention to health matters.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) You may find that partners act strangely toward you today, but take this in stride and keep busy at your favorite activities.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to Jul. 21) Even if you are bored at work today, don't set that way or you could get into trouble. Be kind to a troubled co-worker.

LEO (Jul. 22 to Aug. 22) If you listen to some suggestions from a good friend today, you could profit greatly. Try to please your mate more and make your home happier.

VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22) If a family friend tries to start an argu-

Saudi Cairo Bank reports big loss

RIYADH (R) — Sandi Cairo Bank said on Wednesday it lost \$9.67 million (S16 million) in 1986, the biggest loss reported by a Saudi bank since oil revenues began dropping off in the early 1980s.

The loss came after six years of financial problems which prompted the central bank, the Saudi Arabian Monetary Agency (SAMA), to step in to support the Jeddah-based bank with a large volume of low-interest deposits.

Saudi Cairo, owned 40 per cent by Egypt's Banque Du Caire, published its 1986 figures nearly nine months after a reporting deadline set by the commerce ministry expired.

It confirmed it was going ahead with a rescue plan under which

the state-owned Public Investment Fund would inject 300 million riyals (\$80 million) into the bank, doubling capital to 150 million riyals (\$40 million).

This would dilute Banque Du Caire's shareholding to 20 per cent. An earlier rescue attempt only a few months ago doubled Saudi Cairo's capital from 150 million riyals (\$40 million).

The bank's troubles began in the early 1980s when it lost 408 million riyals (\$109 million) by speculating in precious metals. Bank officials said later a large part of its loan portfolio had gone sour and it declared zero profit for 1985.

At a shareholders meeting in 1985, the board said the acting director general, Hamad Al Hunaidi, had resigned following

allegations that he had approved irregular loans.

A statement accompanying the 1986 data said his replacement, Abdul Aziz Zaidan, resigned at the end of 1986.

A total of 114.0 million riyals (\$30 million) was set aside in 1986 to cover bad or doubtful debts, an increase of 25 per cent over 1985.

Revenues after provisions fell 38 per cent to 122.7 million riyals (\$33 million), while expenses dropped 7.6 per cent to 182.3 million (\$49 million).

But the bankers estimate Saudi Cairo could have earned \$80 to 90 million riyals (\$21 to \$24 million) on the open market from SAMA's low-interest deposits of about one billion riyals (\$26 million) with the bank.

Bahraini budget projects \$160m deficit

BAHRAIN (R) — Bahrain unveiled its 1988 budget on Wednesday, projecting a 60 million dinar (\$160 million) deficit to be bridged by borrowing on domestic markets.

The finance ministry set expenditure at 490 million dinars (\$1.3 billion), while revenues in-

cluding oil are put at 430 million dinars (\$1.14 billion).

The final outcome of 1987's budget will not emerge for some months, but expenditure was initially set at 560 million dinars (\$1.5 billion).

Bahrain began issuing treasury bills in December 1988 to help

fund its budget as world oil prices retreated.

Several other Gulf states are now tapping local investors for funds by issuing government paper.

Bankers said the Bahrain government would have to raise its debt ceiling before increasing domestic borrowing.

Algeria pins hope on gas reserves

ALGIERS (R) — While OPEC's latest pricing pact cracks under market pressure, Algeria has stepped up its bid for a larger share of the world gas market.

With vast untapped natural gas reserves, it has vowed never again to be caught out by a collapse in oil prices like that of the mid-1980s.

That slump saw development plans turn up, projects frozen or cancelled, and belts painfully tightened throughout the economy.

It also triggered the so-called "big switch" in energy policy. To protect against future price fluctuations, the government undertook to reduce its near-total dependence on oil revenues by building up the gas sector.

"Flexibility, that is the aim of our policy today," Sadek Boussene, director of the ministry of energy told Reuters in a recent interview.

He stressed Algeria's policy within the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) was unchanged.

Significantly, the contracts with Turkey and Greece are long-term while the much-smaller British deal is seen as opening an important future market.

Over 20 years Athens will undertake to import some 12 billion cubic metres, while Ankara

will sign for 1.6 billion a year, energy ministry officials said.

Talks with West Germany, Spain, Italy, and even Libya, are also under way.

A long-running legal dispute with the U.S. company Boston Panhandle-Trunkline was finally settled and energy ministry officials now talk of a "takeoff" in the U.S. market.

They said they expected total sales of natural gas to the United States to rise to between five and six billion cubic metres in 1988 after dropping to one billion in 1986.

At home, the switch-over is now nearly over with 93 per cent of the country's electricity coming from gas rather than oil.

"It was natural for us to concentrate on domestic gas consumption, given such large gas reserves. We even sell it at a loss to some outlying districts as part of our development strategy," another senior energy ministry official said.

Last year, natural gas exports totalled seven billion cubic metres and could rise to as high as nine this year or next, according to official sources.

Officials say details for natural gas exports to Britain, Greece and Turkey will be signed soon.

They will supplement long-standing sales to traditional clients such as Belgium and France.

Significantly, the contracts with

Turkey and Greece are long-term while the much-smaller British deal is seen as opening an important future market.

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U.S. envoy to arrive in Luanda for talks

Fierce fighting rages in Angola

LUANDA (R) — U.S. envoy Chester Crocker and Angolan government officials Thursday renew efforts to find a negotiated solution to the war in southern Angola and bring independence to South African-ruled Namibia (South West Africa).

But the visit by the U.S. assistant secretary of state for African affairs, his third to Luanda in six months, will be overshadowed by fierce fighting and growing Cuban and South African involvement in the battle for Angola's key south eastern garrison town of Cuito Cuanavale.

Angola's UNITA (National Union for the Total Independence of Angola) rebels say government troops have fled the town which has been pounded by long-range South African guns. But Angola says a major air strike by government and Cuban

pilots saved the town from capture. Cuito is Angola's main base in the south east and the only airfield from which it can hit easily at South African positions.

Western diplomats said the battle, and the growing involvement of South African forces and the 35,000 Cuban troops backing Angola, could only hamper the negotiations on Namibia.

The presence of the Cubans and South Africa's continued military occupation of southern Angola have been the major stumbling blocks to long-running

international efforts to achieve Namibian independence.

The diplomats expressed surprise that Crocker, who held talks in Luanda in July and September on the Namibian issue, should have chosen to make a third negotiating trip to Angola at this time.

The battle for Cuito began on Jan. 12 when an invading force of up to 6,000 South African troops, backed by aircraft and long-range guns, launched their attack. Cuban-piloted fighters stopped the advance just one kilometre from the town, according to Angolan military sources.

During his last visit in September, Crocker discussed a new Angolan proposal for a partial withdrawal of Cuban troops from southern Angola over a period of

two years. Angola had originally offered a three-year pullout.

The United States and South Africa have been demanding the withdrawal of the Cubans from Angola as a condition for any agreement on independence for

Namibia. Angolan Defence Ministry spokesman have denied reports that Cuban reinforcements of up to 5,000 men, including tank crews and pilots, have been arriving in Angola in recent weeks.

The Angolan government, which has repeatedly said it is willing to continue efforts to find a negotiated settlement to the Namibia question, is also demanding that the United States stop military aid to UNITA, which it is supplying with sophisticated anti-aircraft missiles.

Contras, Sandinistas start direct talks today

SAN JOSE (R) — Nicaraguan contra rebels and officials of the Sandinista government open their first direct ceasefire talks Thursday with each side hoping to influence a key vote in the U.S. Congress on fresh aid to the rebels.

While both sides say they are eager for an immediate end to the fighting, diplomats say prospects for an early truce in the six-year-old war are bleak.

The Sandinistas say they will only discuss democracy with the rebels once the contras lay down their arms and join the peaceful opposition.

The contras insist on wide democratic reforms before agreeing to a ceasefire.

"The talks seem at an impasse before they even begin," a European diplomat said. "If the negotiations fail to get anywhere, each side is likely to portray the other as being uninterested in peace."

Both sides hope to influence Washington, where Congress is due to vote on Feb. 3 and 4 on a new \$36-million aid package proposed by President Reagan.

Rebel leaders are in Washington to lobby for the aid.

"The battle for the freedom of Nicaragua is moving to Washington from the mountains of Nicaragua," said one of the six rebel leaders, Pedro Joaquin Chacón.

He spoke over the weekend in San Jose, the Costa Rican capital where the talks are to be held.

before leaving for the United States.

Rebel leaders charge that recent Sandinista moves to comply with a Central American peace plan are cosmetic and aimed solely at cutting off U.S. aid to the rebels.

They say U.S.-backed military pressure forces the Sandinistas to make concessions they would not make otherwise.

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COLUMNS 7G8

Prince Charles gets a kiss

MELBOURNE, Australia (AP) — Prince Charles got a kiss on the cheek Wednesday from a woman who said he looks better in real life than in his photos. "Actually his photos don't do him justice... his skin is lovely. I would say he is great," said Patricia Minchinberg, 37. Later, Charles visited an urban housing development. He is to fly to Adelaide on Thursday. Diana spent much of the day resting after Tuesday's hectic celebrations in Sydney to mark Australia's 200th anniversary of European settlement. The couple is in Australia for a 10-day visit before flying to Thailand to celebrate King Bhumibol's 60th birthday. The couple arrived on Monday. A Buckingham palace spokesman Tuesday denied as "absolute nonsense" a report that Princess Diana fainted from the heat during the bicentennial celebration. "No one was collapsing. It ran pretty smoothly. There were no hiccups," said a navy spokesman who was aboard the HMAS Cook, where Diana and Prince Charles watched the display of ships in Sydney Harbour. The spokesman said: "The princess had an enjoyable day and was talking to everyone on the ship."

Australia ends bicentennial celebration

SYDNEY, Australia (AP) — Australia finished wild celebrations marking the bicentennial and Wednesday resumed an official investigation into the deaths of 100 aborigines in police custody. The 200th anniversary of the founding of Australia by British convicts and other settlers produced the party of a lifetime Tuesday with 2 million people crowding the shores of Sydney harbour. "Some party," said the Sun. "Fabulous," echoed the Mirror while the Australian screamed: "Now for the next 200, a nation to be envied." "But the party's over now. It's time to look to the future," said the tabloid Sun, while the rival Mirror congratulated huge aboriginal protests for a "statelyness which will be respected and admired around the world."

Cabinet honours Thatcher

LONDON (R) — Britain's Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher was treated to a lavish dinner by her cabinet to celebrate becoming the country's longest serving head of government this century. On Jan. 3, she reached 3,167 days in office and surpassed the previous record by Liberal Herbert Asquith between 1908 and 1916. In the oak-panelled coffee room of Westminster's Carlton Club, the prime minister and her husband Denis feasted on quails, coquilles of John Dory and lobster, veal Carlton and tangerine flan — all by courtesy of the cabinet ministers. She was presented with a watercolour of her office painted by Environment Secretary Nicholas Ridley in secret sessions while parked in his car outside 10 Downing Street. The evening was organised by Lord Whitelaw, the club's chairman and Thatcher's deputy until earlier this month when he resigned for health reasons.

Doctors not to save 2-faced baby

MIAMI (AP) — The parents and doctors of a baby born with two separate faces on his oversized, heart-shaped head have decided against taking heroic measures to save the child. "It's really very clear. There's no possibility for this baby to live any meaningful life," said Dr. Eduardo Bancalari, head of neonatology at Jackson Memorial Hospital. The infant remains in an intermediate care unit at the hospital, where he was born Friday. Bancalari said Monday that the baby, fed through a tube but needs no other life-support equipment, could live several months. The child is a rare variant of a Siamese twin, a condition which occurs once per 100,000 births when the process of division which normally results in identical twins fails short of completion. The boy has one face on each side of his head. One face may cry while the other sleeps, suggesting the possibility of two sets of underdeveloped brains, doctors said. X-rays showed the baby had little brain tissue and no brain stem, said Dr. Charles Bauer.

Aspirin reduces heart attack risk

WASHINGTON (R) — The U.S. National Institutes of Health planned to release the results of an extensive study that drug industry sources said will show Aspirin can sharply reduce the risk of heart attacks. Industry sources familiar with the research said it built on a 1980 study that found that taking Aspirin regularly after a first heart attack reduced the odds of subsequent heart attacks because it had a thinning effect on blood. "There was a reduced mortality," said a delighted industry official who declined to be named. "The results should be rather accurate and very reliable because there was a high level of participation by doctors and very few dropped out." The latest study was designed to determine whether Aspirin also had a prophylactic effect against first heart attacks, enhancing the life expectancy of those who took Aspirin on a regular basis before suffering from an attack. The test used over 20,000 doctors, mostly middle-aged, as subjects in a so-called double-blinded study, half took Aspirin, half took a Placebo or sugar pill. The sources said the study which will appear later this week in the New England Journal of Medicine would be conclusive because it included such a large number of doctors and because their drop-out rate was very low over the four-year span.

5th stolen Corot painting recovered

TOKYO (AP) — The last of five Camille Corot paintings stolen in France and sold in Japan by a French-Japanese ring of art thieves has been recovered, local news media reported Wednesday. Police investigators said the painting, Portrait of Madam Baodot, was being held by a South Korean resident of Japan as collateral on a 30-million-yen (\$236,220) loan to an acquaintance, the nationally circulated Asahi Shimbun newspaper reported. The newspaper did not give the man's name. Kyodo News Service said police investigators were negotiating with the man, a 44-year-old manager of a Mahjong Parlour, to submit the painting to be used as evidence in French courts. Police told the Associated Press their investigation was continuing and refused further comment. Last November, Japanese authorities returned to the French government four Corot paintings recovered here after they were stolen from a museum in Semur Eo Auxois in 1984 and brought into Japan by a ring of art thieves. The group allegedly included at least two Frenchmen and one Japanese.

Tax rebates sought for brothel visits

ISTANBUL (R) — The men of Adana in southern Turkey are seeking tax rebates for their brothel expenses, claiming the visits are for health purposes. The mass-circulation Hurriyet newspaper reported that Adana taxmen were divided on whether the claim was legitimate and had referred the issue to the value-added tax (VAT) authorities. Turkish brothels have been legal for decades. A brothel receipt published by Hurriyet showed that a VAT rebate would earn a free brothel visit after every 25 for which the going rate of 2,000 lira (\$2) was paid.

Salvation Army officer leaves over \$400,000

LONDON (R) — Catherine Bramwell-Booth, an officer in the Salvation Army for most of her long life and granddaughter of its founder, left an estate valued at £238,384 (nearly \$422,000), according to her will. Most of her estate was bequeathed to her sisters, Olive, 96, and Dora, 94, with whom she lived until her death last Oct. 3 at age 104. No other details were available. The family was left a large house and savings by their maternal grandfather, a medical doctor, who was not connected with the Evangelical and social reform organisation. Miss Bramwell-Booth also derived royalties from her eight published books, including popular poetry of a religious kind. She became a television personality in her 90s and kept a lifelong pledge never to smoke, swear, steal or drink alcohol.

Weekend Crossword not received

UDF formally supports Barre's presidential bid

PARIS (AP) — The Union for French Democracy (UDF), which makes up half of France's governing conservative coalition, has formally given its support to the presidential candidacy of former Premier Raymond Barre.

Barre's campaign aides have said he will officially declare himself a candidate for president on Feb. 8.

The first round of voting in the election is scheduled for April 24. If no candidate gets a majority in the first round, there will be a runoff between the top two candidates two weeks later.

Premier Jacques Chirac, whose neo-Gaullist Rally for the Republic Party (RPR) governs with UDF, declared himself a candidate.

The report will evaluate Waldeheim's handling of his activities as well as giving a narrative account of them, he said, adding: "Our work will throw a little more light and thus provide more precise information."

Commission Chairman Hans Rudolf Kurz said earlier that the report would be handed over to the government on Feb. 8.

The historians are due to question Waldeheim, 69, at his official residence Thursday.

The West German said he

freed under an amnesty called for in a Central American peace accord.

"We believe the decision to grant amnesty to them was adduced," the department said, adding that "we are pursuing every possible avenue in order to end the search for the last bodies to be brought forward."

Hugo Garcia de Anda, an official of the state steel company Sidermex that operates the mine, told reporters 30 bodies had been recovered and nine were thought to remain in the mine. Sidermex officials said.

He said 17 miners had been injured in the fire, three of them in grave condition with third-degree burns over 70 per cent of their bodies.

Miners taking part in the rescue operation spoke of 46 dead and 20 injured but their versions could not be confirmed.

Independent checks were unavailable as mine authorities and soldiers prevented reporters from gaining access to the mine area.

The mine accident was the worst in Mexico since 1969 when 183 coal miners were killed in Barroteran, just six miles (10 kilometres) from the site of Monday's accident.

The accident occurred when a short circuit started a fire in the lower levels of the mine, Sidermex officials said.

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